

Appln No. 10/820,480
Amdt date June 21, 2006
Reply to Office action of February 27, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-30 now remain pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 23 and has added new claims 29 and 30. The amendments and new claims find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter is presented. Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1-30 are in condition for allowance and therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance.

In the Office action dated February 27, 2006, the Examiner rejects claims 16, 19-21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. In so rejecting, the Examiner asserts that the limitation, "conductive porous coating," lacks sufficient antecedent basis. Applicant has amended claims 16, 19, 20 and 23 to recite a "thin metal coating" in place of the "conductive metal coating." Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and does not recite the "conductive metal coating." The "thin metal coating" is recited in base claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Moaddeb, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,405,078) in view of Skalsky, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,844,099). However, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 to recite a tip electrode comprising a non-conductive porous material and a conductive porous coating adapted to cover the non-conductive porous material. Similarly, Applicant has amended independent claim 15 to recite a porous tip electrode comprising a non-conductive porous material through which fluid can pass and a thin metal coating adapted to cover the non-conductive porous material. Also, new claim 29 recites a porous tip electrode comprising a non-conductive porous material and a conductive porous coating generally encapsulating the non-conductive porous material, and new claim 30 recites a porous tip electrode comprising an inner non-conductive porous material and an outer conductive porous material.

Neither Moaddeb nor Skalsky teaches or suggests the features recited in independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 30. Rather, Skalsky discloses a pacing lead with both porous and conductive characteristics on its surface. The pacing lead in Skalsky relies on the porous

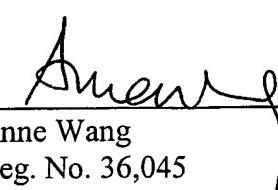
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components of the surface to facilitate attachment of the lead to the tissue. Column 2, lines 21-23. Accordingly, Skalsky fails to disclose a conductive porous coating or a thin metal coating adapted to cover the non-conductive porous material, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 15. Skalsky also fails to disclose a conductive porous coating generally encapsulating the non-conductive porous material, as recited in independent claim 29, or an inner non-conductive porous material and an outer conductive porous material, as recited in claim 30. Such configurations of Skalsky's pacing lead would substantially decrease the ability of the lead to attach to tissue. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 30, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-14 and 16-28, are allowable over Moaddeb and Skalsky.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claim 1-30, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's counsel at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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